

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 7, 2010. Claims 1-29 and 56 are cancelled and claim 52 is amended. Claims 30-76 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

Claim Objection

The Office Action objects to claim 52 for a minor informality that has been corrected by amendment. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 52 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 53-76 are directed at patentable subject matter. In the interests of expediting prosecution and without conceding Examiner's contentions in the Office Action, Applicants herein amend claim 52 to incorporate elements similar or identical to some or all of the elements of claim 56, rendering Examiner's rejection moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Allowed Subject Matter

The Office Action acknowledges that claims 30-51 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants thank Examiner for the careful review and allowance of those claims. Applicants agree with Examiner that claims 30-51 are patentable, but respectfully disagree with Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. Applicants submit that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular element, that makes each of the claims allowable. No single element should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of a claim that makes it allowable. Therefore, Applicants do not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, the claims allowable and do not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statement in the Office Action.

Charge Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17; and/or (3) any post issuance fees under 37 CFR § 1.20. In addition, if any additional extension of time is required, which has not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this January 21, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

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